

Message Text

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73

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /082 W

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R 211721Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4720

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: ICTFU VIEWS ON PORTUGUES LABOR SITUATION

1. ICTFU SECGEN OTTO KERSTEN GAVE EMBOFF FOLLOWING VIEW ON
RECENT LABOR DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AUGUST 21. HE SAID
PORTUGUESE LABOR CENTER (INTERSINDICAL) HAD SENT TELEGRAM
TO ICTFU REQUESTING SOLIDARITY SUPPORT FOLLOWING RECENT EVENTS
IN THAT COUNTRY. KERSTEN SAID IN HIS REPLY WHICH WAS RELEASED
TO PRESS AUGUST 20 HE CONDEMNED VIOLENCE IN ANY FORM. BUT
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ADDED: "IT IS NEVERTHELESS UNDENIABLE THAT REACTIONARY

FORCES ARE SEEKING TO PROFIT FROM JUSTIFIED INDIGNATION OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE AT LACK OF RESPECT OF POPULAR WILL, EXPRESSED AT TIME OF ELECTIONS OF 25 APRIL, AS WELL AS AT LACK OF RESPECT FOR ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY IN VARIOUS FIELDS, INCLUDING THAT OF TRADE UNIONS." KERSTEN ALSO CALLED ON INTERSINDICAL "TO PUT AN END TO SITUATION OF ABUSE AND COERCION IN ORDER THAT PORTUGAL MAY REGAIN PEACE AND PATH TO SOCIAL PROGRESS."

2. KERSTEN SAID THIS RELEASE WAS GIVEN TO ITALIAN AND GERMAN RADIO, HOWEVER, HE NOT CERTAIN IT PUBLICIZED INSIDE PORTUGAL SINCE ICTFU REP THERE IS CURRENTLY "ON VACATION." KERSTEN SAID HIS OFFICE HAS ATTEMPTED CONTACT SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MARIO SOARES BY PHONE, BUT SO FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS.

3. KERSTEN TOOK CREDIT FOR ASSISTING NON-INTERINDICAL SLATE OF CHEMICAL WORKERS IN RECENT ELECTION VICTORY. HE UNDERSTANDS INTERSINDICAL HAS PROTESTED OUTCOME OF THIS ELECTION, BUT AS OF AUGUST 20 WINNING SLATE HAD OCCUPIED UNION HEADQUARTERS.

4. KERSTEN SAID ICTFU IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT PORTUGUESE SITUATION AND WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW IT CLOSELY AND ISSUE STATEMENTS WHEN IT FEELS DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES ARE BEING VIOLATED. KERSTEN INDICATED ICTFU IS SENDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SOCIALIST-BACKED TRADE UNIONS OUTSIDE INTER-INDICAL BUT GAVE NO DETAILS. RENNER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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